


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

 1. (currently amended) A method of making a composite panel (100) of sandwich structure and provided with a hinge (106), said panel comprising a stack made up of at least one first skin (101) made of a reinforced thermoplastics material, of a cellular core (102) made up of a thermoplastic material, and of a second skin (103) made up of a reinforced thermoplastics material, in which method said panel (100) is formed by pressing said stack at a high pressure lying in the range 10×10^5 Pa to 30×10^5 Pa, the first and second skins (101, 103) being preheated to a softening temperature, said method being characterized in that, after said panel has been formed, forming a hinge (106) between two portions (107, 108) of said panel (100) at a predetermined place in said panel by cutting only a narrow incision (104) relative to the thickness of the panel through one (101) of the first and second skins (101, 103), and substantially through the entire thickness of the cellular core (102), while leaving the other skin (103) intact.

2. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the incision (104) in said panel (100) is made about in the range 10 seconds to 30 seconds after said panel has been formed.

3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the incision (104) is made by means of a serrated blade(200) which, relative to the plane of said panel (100), firstly moves vertically only so as to penetrate into the skin (101) of said panel, and then moves vertically and horizontally back-and-forth so as to cut through the cellular core (102).

4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the incision (104) is made by means of two juxtaposed serrated blades (201, 202) which vibrate relative to each other while simultaneously moving downwards vertically relative to the

plane of said panel (100) so as to penetrate into said panel by cutting through a skin (101) and through the cellular core (102) thereof.

5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the incision (104) is made in the formed panel while said panel is still in a forming mold.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the incision (104) is made in the formed panel outside a forming mold.

7. ~~(withdrawn)~~ ^{canceled} A method of making a composite panel (100) of sandwich structure and provided with a hinge (106), said panel comprising a stack made up of at least one first skin made of a reinforced thermoplastic material, of a cellular core made of a reinforced thermoplastic material, and of a second skin made of a reinforced thermoplastic material, in which said panel is formed by pressing said stack at a pressure lying in the range 10×10^5 Pa to 30×10^5 Pa, the first and second skins being preheated to a softening temperature, said method being characterized in that, simultaneously with the forming of said panel (101), at least a portion of an edge (109) of said panel is crushed so as to compact the cellular core (102), and the crushed portion of the edge (109) is cut out to a desired shape so as to obtain a hinge-forming piece (106) suitable for being fixed to another piece.

8. ~~(withdrawn)~~ ^{canceled} A method according to claim 7, characterized in that the portion of the crushed edge (109) is cut out at the end of forming of said panel (100).

9. ~~(withdrawn)~~ ^{canceled} A method according to claim 7, characterized in that the portion of the crushed edge (109) is cut out immediately after said panel (100) is formed.

10. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that, prior to forming said panel (100) a pre-assembly constituted by the stack of at least the first skin (101), of the cellular core (102) and of the second skin (103) is heated.

11. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that, while said panel (100) is being formed, the first and second skins (101, 103) have a forming temperature lying about in the range 160°C to 200°C.

12. ((previously presented) A method according to claim 1, said method being characterized in that the first and second skins (101, 103) are made up of glass fiber fabric and of the thermoplastics material.

13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12, characterized in that the thermoplastics material is a polypropylene.

14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the cellular core (102) of the panel (100) has an open-celled structure of the tubular or honeycomb cell type.

15. (currently amended) A panel (100) of sandwich-type composite structure and comprising a stack made up of at least a first skin (101) made of a reinforced thermoplastic material, of a cellular core (102) made of a thermoplastics material, and of a second skin (103) made of a reinforced thermoplastics material, the panel being provided with at least one hinge, in which said panel (100) is made by implementing a method of forming said panel (100) by pressing said stack at a high pressure lying in the range 10×10^5 Pa to 30×10^5 Pa, the first and second skins (101, 103) being preheated to a softening temperature, said method being characterized in that, after said panel has been formed, forming a hinge (106) between two portions (107, 108) of said panel (100) at a predetermined place in said panel by cutting only a narrow incision (104) relative to the thickness of the panel through one (101) of the first and second skins (101, 103), and substantially through the entire thickness of the cellular core (102), while leaving the other skin (103) intact.

16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the narrow incision is a 0.5 mm incision.

17. (previously presented) The panel according to claim 15, wherein the narrow incision is a 0.5 mm incision.

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18. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the depth of the narrow incision is in a range of 80% to less than 100% of the thickness of the thickness of the cellular core and one of the first and second skins.

19. (new) The panel according to claim 15, wherein the depth of the narrow incision is in a range of 80% to less than 100% of the thickness of the thickness of the cellular core and one of the first and second skins.

20. (new) A method of making a composite panel (100) of sandwich structure and provided with a hinge (106), said panel consisting of a stack made up of three layers, wherein said three layers include a first skin (101) made of a reinforced thermoplastics material, a cellular core (102) made up of a thermoplastic material, and a second skin (103) made up of a reinforced thermoplastics material, in which method said panel (100) is formed by pressing said stack at a high pressure lying in the range 10×10^5 Pa to 30×10^5 Pa, the first and second skins (101, 103) being preheated to a softening temperature, said method being characterized in that, after said panel has been formed, forming a hinge (106) between two portions (107, 108) of said panel (100) at a predetermined place in said panel by cutting only a narrow incision (104) relative to the thickness of the panel through one (101) of the first and second skins (101, 103), and substantially through the entire thickness of the cellular core (102), while leaving the other skin (103) intact.

21. (new) A panel (100) of sandwich-type composite structure and consisting of a stack made up of three layers, wherein said three layers include a first skin (101) made of a reinforced thermoplastic material, a cellular core (102) made of a thermoplastics material, and a second skin (103) made of a reinforced thermoplastics material, the panel being provided with at least one hinge, in which said panel (100) is made by implementing a method of forming said panel (100) by pressing said stack at a high pressure

lying in the range 10×10^5 Pa to 30×10^5 Pa, the first and second skins (101, 103) being preheated to a softening temperature, said method being characterized in that, after said panel has been formed, forming a hinge (106) between two portions (107, 108) of said panel (100) at a predetermined place in said panel by cutting only a narrow incision (104) relative to the thickness of the panel through one (101) of the first and second skins (101, 103), and substantially through the entire thickness of the cellular core (102), while leaving the other skin (103) intact.

22. (new) A method of making a composite panel (100) of sandwich structure and provided with a hinge (106), said panel comprising a stack made up of at least one first skin (101) made of a reinforced thermoplastics material, of a cellular core (102) made up of a thermoplastic material, and of a second skin (103) made up of a reinforced thermoplastics material, in which method said panel (100) is formed by pressing said stack at a high pressure lying in the range 10×10^5 Pa to 30×10^5 Pa, the first and second skins (101, 103) being preheated to a softening temperature, said method being characterized in that, after said panel has been formed, forming a hinge (106) between two portions (107, 108) of said panel (100) at a predetermined place in said panel by cutting only a narrow incision (104) relative to the thickness of the panel through one (101) of the first and second skins (101, 103), and substantially through the entire thickness of the cellular core (102), while leaving the other skin (103) intact, and the hinge consists of only the intact skin adjacent the core.

23. (new) A panel (100) of sandwich-type composite structure and comprising a stack made up of at least a first skin (101) made of a reinforced thermoplastic material, of a cellular core (102) made of a thermoplastics material, and of a second skin (103) made of a reinforced thermoplastics material, the panel being provided with at least one hinge, in which said panel (100) is made by implementing a method of forming said panel (100) by pressing said stack at a high pressure lying in the range 10×10^5 Pa to 30×10^5 Pa, the first and second skins (101, 103) being preheated to a softening temperature, said method being characterized in that, after said panel has been formed, forming a hinge (106) between two portions (107, 108) of said panel (100) at a predetermined place in said panel by cutting only a narrow incision (104) relative to the thickness of the panel through one (101) of the first and

second skins (101, 103), and substantially through the entire thickness of the cellular core (102), while leaving the other skin (103) intact, and the hinge consists of only the intact skin adjacent the core.

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